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CALIFORNIA CODES  
HEALTH AND **SAFETY CODE**  
SECTION **135-138.4**

**135.** The Office of Women's Health is hereby established within the State Department of Health Services. For purposes of this chapter, "office" means the Office of Women's Health.

136. (a) The Health and Welfare Agency shall establish an interagency task force on women's health composed of representatives of the State Department of Health Services, the State Department of Developmental Services, the State Department of Social Services, the State Department of Alcohol and Drug Programs, and the Major Risk Medical Insurance Program.

(b) The State Department of Education, the Department of Housing and Community Development, the office of the Attorney General, the State Department of Mental Health, and the Department of Corrections may participate with the interagency task force on women's health when necessary to implement the state strategy developed pursuant to Section 137.

137. The office, in consultation with the interagency task force on women's health, shall develop a coordinated state strategy for addressing the health related needs of women.

138. The office may do any of the following:

- (a) Perform strategic planning within the state department to develop departmentwide plans for implementation of goals and objectives for women's health.
- (b) Conduct departmental policy analysis on specific issues related to women's health.
- (c) Coordinate pilot projects and planning projects funded by the state that are related to women's health.
- (d) Identify unnecessary duplication of services and future service needs.
- (e) Communicate and disseminate information and perform a liaison function within the state department and to providers of health, social, educational, and support services to women.
- (f) Perform internal state department staff training, and training of health care professionals to ensure more linguistically and culturally appropriate care.
- (g) Serve as a clearinghouse for information regarding women's health data, strategies, and programs that address women's health issues, including pregnancy, breast and cervical cancers, AIDS, osteoporosis, and menopause, as well as issues that impact women's health, including substance abuse, domestic violence, housing, teenage pregnancy, and sexual assault.
- (h) Encourage innovative responses by public and private entities that are attempting to address women's health issues.
- (i) Provide technical assistance to counties, other public entities, and private entities seeking to obtain funds for initiatives in women's health, including identification of sources of funding and assistance with writing of grants.

138.4. (a) The State Department of Health Services shall place priority on providing information to consumers, patients, and health care providers regarding women's gynecological cancers, including, signs and symptoms, risk factors, the benefits of early detection through appropriate diagnostic testing, and treatment options.

(b) The information may include, but is not limited to, the following elements:

(1) Educational and informational materials in print, audio, video, electronic, or other media.

(2) Public service announcements and advertisements.

(c) (1) The department may produce or contract with others to develop the materials described in this section as the director deems appropriate, or may survey available publications from, among other sources, the National Cancer Institute and the American Cancer Society, and may collect and formulate a distribution plan and disseminate these publications according to the plan. These materials may be made available to the public free of charge and may include distribution through the Medical Board of California, as well as through other sources according to the distribution plan.

(2) The department may require, as it deems appropriate, health care providers to make these materials available to patients.

(d) In exercising the powers under this section, the office shall consult with appropriate health care professionals and providers, consumers, and patients, or organizations representing them.

(e) The department may appoint a Women's Gynecological Cancer Information Advisory Council which may include representation from health care professionals and providers, consumers, patients, and other appropriate interests. Members of the council shall receive no compensation for their services, but shall be allowed their actual and necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their duties.

(f) The department's duties pursuant to this section are contingent upon the department receiving funds appropriated for this purpose.

(g) The department may adopt any regulations necessary and appropriate for the implementation of this section.